(c) the total amount spent for this exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts Regional Exploration of coal (besides other minerals) on regular basis to identify new coal resources in the country. Apart from it, Ministry of Coal also undertakes Promotional (regional) Exploration of coal through a plan-to-plan scheme for supplementing and augmenting the efforts of GSI.

(b) The Inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal has increased from 201.95 Billion Tonnes on 1.1.1996 to 253.30 Billion Tonnes on 1.1.2006 (last ten years), with addition of 51.35 Billion Tonnes of new coal resources.

(c) As per GSI, total expenditure incurred on regional exploration of additional reserves during last decade works out to Rs. 213.38 crores. Besides, as reported by Coal India Ltd., under the scheme of Promotional Exploration for Coal and Lignite, an approximate sum of Rs. 204.00 crores has been spent on completed and on going projects of Promotional Exploration for coal, in last ten years.

Production of coal

† 3495. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for fresh capital investment to increase the production of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the additional capital required with regard to surface and underground mines; and

(c) the rate of increase in production after the said capital investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fresh capital investment is required to increase the production of coal. During Tenth Plan Period

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the capital envisaged is Rs. 12525.12 crore for PSUs. Out of this the proposed capital investment for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 3640.79 crores.

(c) From the production level of 323.93 Mt. in 2002-03, a quantum jump of around 16 Mt. has been achieved to reach 340.51 Mt. in 2003-04. In 2004-05 coal companies have surpassed the target of 349 Mt, and has produced 358.88 Mt., while in the year 2005-06 against the target of 381.81 Mt. the achievement has been 379.50 Mt. recording a quantum jump of above 20 Mt. over the production of previous financial year. The Tenth Plan terminal year production target has been increased further by about 20 Mt. to produce 401.30 Mt. in 2006-07 as against its earlier projection of 386.13 Mt. Apart from Public Sector Undertakings, captive blocks are also expected to contribute to increase in coal production in the country.

Allocation of Bisrar coal block for thermal power station in Chhattisgarh

†3496. SHRIMOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Chhattisgarh had sought allocation of Bisrar coal block for proposed 2x660 MW thermal power station at Sargiya (Bhaiyathan) last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decision to allocate Bisrar coal block for the said power station had been taken by Government in April, 2005;

(c) if so, by when the formal information would be conveyed to Government of Chhattisgarh in this regard and the reasons for delay in communicating the same; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that work on this project is not hampered due to delay in allocation of Bisrar coal block?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB), an undertaking of the Government of Chhattisgarh, has been allocated the Gidhmuri and Paturia coal blocks for their 2x500 MW proposed power plant at Bhaiyathan in Chhattisgarh. Subsequently CSEB

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.